

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: HUMBLE, et al.
Serial No. 10/688,675
Filing Date: October 17, 2003
Art Unit: 3739
Title: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOVING A
PROTECTIVE COVER FROM A MEDICAL
INSTRUMENT**

MAIL STOP _____

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Dear Sir:

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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE
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Name: _____

Willie Jiles
Willie Jiles

Date: _____

February 27, 2004

EV324646945US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant respectfully requests, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of these references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. Furthermore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), no representation is made that these references qualify as prior art or that these references are material to the patentability of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before an Office Action on the merits, and therefore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee is believed to be due. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicant

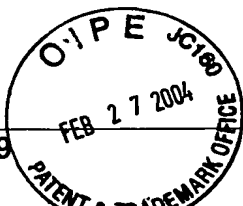


Thomas A. Beaton
Reg. No. 46,543

Date: 2/27/04

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number: **05073**
Attorney Docket No.: 017109.0360



PTO-1449 Information Disclosure Citation In an Application	Application No. 10/688,675	Applicant(s) HUMBLE et al.	
	Docket Number 017109.0360	Group Art Unit 3739	Filing Date Oct. 17, 2003

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
A	5,466,898	11/14/1995	Gilbert et al.	181	131	03/20/1992
B	5,910,113	06/08/1999	Pruter	600	437	03/24/1998
C						
D						
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J						
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RECEIVED**MAR 03 2004****TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700****FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
O	EP 0 788 777 A1	08/13/1997	EPO	A61B	19/08	X	
P							
Q							

		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	
R		Notification of Transmittal of The International Search Report, for Application No. PCT/US03/33170, mailed February 16, 2004, authorized by Johannes Van Brummelen citing the above referenced documents (6 pages)	
S			
T			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE